

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /060 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:JKWARD:DHT

APPROVED BY EUR:BLAINGEN

EUR/CE:DANDERSON

EUR/SOV:SMCCALL

EA/J:EFEATHERSTONE

EA/P:MSMITH

C:JMONTGOMERY(SUBSTANCE)

S/S - MR. BRIDGES

----- 124190

O R 151523Z SEP 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 228221

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, GE, UR

SUBJECT: DEFECTION OF MIG PILOT

REF: BERLIN 6686 (NOTAL)

1. AMBASSADOR MAY USE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IF AMBASSADOR
ABRASIMOV ASKS AND PRESSES ABOUT MIG-25 CASE:

Q. WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE MIG-25 CASE IN JAPAN?

A. THE PILOT HAS REQUESTED AND BEEN GRANTED POLITICAL
ASYLUM IN THE US. HE ARRIVED THERE LAST WEEK. THE
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AIRCRAFT IS IN THE CUSTODY OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

WHICH WILL DETERMINE ITS ULTIMATE DISPOSITION.

Q. DON'T YOU THINK THE GOJ SHOULD RETURN THE SOVIET AIRCRAFT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE?

A. ULTIMATE DISPOSITION OF THE PLANE IS UP TO THE JAPANESE.

Q. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE PILOT BELENKO IN THE US?

A. BELENKO MADE ORAL AND WRITTEN STATEMENTS TO THE EFFECT THAT HE WISHED TO COME TO THE US FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM. FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS, HE HAS BEEN GRANTED PERMISSION TO ENTER THE US WHERE HE IS NOW.

Q. CAN YOU CONFIRM PRESS REPORTS THAT US TECHNICIANS HAVE NOW EXAMINED THE AIRCRAFT?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THIS.

2. AS EMBASSY IS AWARE, TASS STATEMENT OF SEPTEMBER 14 WAS SEVERELY CRITICAL OF BOTH JAPANESE AND US INVOLVEMENT IN THIS MATTER. DEPARTMENT HAS NOT COMMENTED ON TASS STATEMENT AND EMBASSY SHOULD NOT RESPOND TO INQUIRIES UNLESS FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS ARE FORTHCOMING. ROBINSON

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